

REMARKS

The present Response is filed within two months of the mailing date of the Examiner's final action. Accordingly, claims 1 to 20 are pending, with claims 1 and 11 being the only independent claims. None of the claims have been amended so this Response raises no new issues for further consideration or search.

One sheet of the formal drawings submitted on June 4, 2002 has been amended to correct a typographical error, as discussed above.

The Office Action mailed on November 18, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Independent claims 1 and 11 and dependent claims 2, 3, 7-9, 12, 13, and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,059,965 (Geiser). Dependent claims 4, 5, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Geiser in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,677,708 (Matthews). Dependent claims 6, 10, 16, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Geiser. In view of the following Remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the aforementioned rejections are respectfully requested.

Applicants' invention allows a user to navigate through a multi-level hierarchical structure while at the same time displaying information as to where the user is currently located within that hierarchical structure. The hierarchical structure includes a plurality of information entries organized into a plurality of groups and subgroups of those groups (claims 1 and 11, lines 3-4; specification, page 8, line 22 to page 9, line 19). A scrollable cross-point navigation image is displayed in the form of two bars of panels with a common focus panel, each of the panels being linked to and identifying an information entry, a group, or a subgroup (claims 1 and 11, lines 5-8; specification, page 4, lines 13-19; FIGs. 2-9). The focus panel displays the user's current lowest level in the hierarchical structure, along with a successively higher hierarchical level, if any (claim 1, lines 9-10; claim 11, lines 9-10). The hierarchical structure can be best illustrated by referring to an example shown in the figures of the application. Referring, for example, to FIG. 3, the highest level of the folder hierarchy is comprised of "FOLDER A", "FOLDER B", "FOLDER C", and "FILM". The "FILM" folder is comprised of subgroups (or bookmarks) "MUSICAL", "DOCUMENTARY", "COMEDY", "HISTORY", "ACTION", and "DRAMA", as shown in FIG. 4. The "ACTION" subgroup (or bookmark) is comprised of sub-subgroups (or sub-bookmarks) "DIE HARD", and a number of "SUB BOOKMARKS", as shown in FIG. 6. The "DIE HARD"

sub-subgroup (or sub-bookmark) is comprised of a plurality of lowest level subgroups (or sub-sub-bookmarks), "SUBBOOKMARK 2". In the example shown in FIG. 9, the focus panel 30 shows the current lowest level, "SUBBOOKMARK 2" in box 62b (as recited in claims 1 and 11, line 9), and the next higher level, "DIE HARD", (as recited in claims 1 and 11, line 10) as discussed in the specification, page 17, line 16 to page 18, line 8. Levels in the hierarchy that are higher than that displayed in the focus panel, if any, are identified in succeeding adjoining panels of a first bar 34 of the two bars 32, 34, referring in FIG. 9 to "ACTION", and "FILM" (as recited in claims 1 and 11, lines 11-12). Other panels of the first bar 34 identify the highest level groups in the hierarchy (claims 1 and 11, lines 12-13), referring in FIG. 9 to "FOLDER A" and "FOLDER B". Panels on the second bar 32 of the two bars 32, 34 identify information entries (if any), groups (if any), or subgroups (if any) of the same level in the hierarchy as the currently selectable lowest level in the hierarchy identified in the focus panel (claims 1 and 11, lines 14-16), referring in FIG. 9 to "SUBBOOKMARK 2" (in panel 42), "SUBBOOKMARK 2" (in panel 44), "SUBBOOKMARK 2" (in panel 46), and "SUBBOOKMARK 2" (in panel 48). A currently selected lowest level in the hierarchy identified in the focus panel is changed upon the entry of a navigation command by the user on an input device (claims 1 and 11, lines 17-18); compare the focus panels 30 in FIG. 8 and FIG. 9.

Independent claims 1 and 11 only stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Geiser. No other rejections are pending with respect to independent claims 1 and 11.

Geiser discloses a technique for selecting an alphabetic destination name by using a two-dimensional input element (col. 1, lines 55-68; col. 2, lines 43-45). A vertical component of the two-dimensional input element is used to scroll through various letters of the alphabet until a desired letter is selected (col. 2, lines 43-45 and 54-57). The two-dimensional input element is provided in the form of two mutually orthogonal bars (FIGs. 1A-1C). A horizontal bar of the two-dimensional input element is used to scroll through various letter positions from left to right within a word, so as to enable selection of a desired letter position (col. 2, lines 49-54). The name of a destination is spelled out by using a vertical bar of the two-dimensional input element to select an individual letter of the alphabet for each of a plurality of letter positions determined by the horizontal bar. Thus, Geiser utilizes two mutually orthogonal bars to select specific letters and letter positions within a word.

Geiser neither discloses nor suggests navigation through a hierarchical structure of information containing a plurality of groups and at least one level of subgroups, as recited in independent claims 1 and 11, lines 3-4. Geiser provides only one hierarchical level -- namely, letters, and does not disclose use of subgroups.

In addition, Geiser does not disclose or suggest displaying levels in the hierarchy higher than that displayed in the focus panel in succeeding adjoining panels of a first of the two bars, other panels of the first bar identifying highest level groups in the hierarchy, as recited in claims 1 and 11, lines 11-13. The Geiser apparatus is capable of displaying only one hierarchical level of items (i.e., items that are alphabetic characters), and is incapable of displaying items from a plurality of hierarchical levels (i.e., menus and sub-menus) on adjoining panels of a first bar.

Geiser also does not disclose or suggest a focus panel that identifies a lowest hierarchical level and a next hierarchical level, as recited in claims 1 and 11, lines 9-10. Instead, Geiser merely show one entry on one level, as shown in Geiser's FIGS. 1a, 1b and 1c.

For these reasons, Geiser does not disclose or suggest the invention recited in independent claims 1 and 11. Since no other rejections are pending with respect to independent claims 1 and 11, it is submitted that these claims are patentable. Dependent claims 2 to 10 and 12 to 20 are patentable for the reasons that independent claims 1 and 11 are patentable.

With respect to dependent claims 2 and 12, the Examiner asserted that Geiser describes "two bars...sized and positioned on the display so as to permit viewing of a substantial portion of a background image presented on the display". Actually, Geiser is directed to a navigational system which provides a minimal distracting effect such that it can be used while driving (col. 1, lines 55-58). The driver is able to focus on driving without looking at the display of the navigational system because the system provides a vocal output (col. 2, lines 26-30). Geiser does not display a user interface on a windscreen. By contrast, applicants' invention as recited in claims 2 and 12 provides a display with a user interface of two bars and a background image. The two bars are positioned so that they will not disturb the background image. For these additional reasons, dependent claims 2 and 12 are patentable.

With respect to dependent claims 7 and 17, the Examiner incorrectly alleged that Geiser describes a feature set forth in claims 7 and 17 which provides that "upon entry by the user on an input device of a selecting command, the electronic device performs an action corresponding to an information entry identified in the focus panel". As stated above, Geiser does not include a focus

panel formed by an intersection of two panels. For these additional reasons, dependent claims 7 and 17 are patentable.

With respect to dependent claims 8 and 18, Geiser does not disclose or suggest that a currently selected lowest level in the hierarchy identified in the focus panel is changed upon the entry of a navigation command by the user on an input device. This aspect is shown, for example, by comparing the focus panel 30 in FIGS. 8 and 9 of the present application. For this additional reason, dependent claims 8 and 18 are patentable.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Although no fee is believed to be due at this time, any fees or charges required in connection with the present application may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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